ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In order to apply an electronic signature from a client station having authentication resources at a server, the following steps are carried out: the client station is authenticated at the server, thus establishing an authenticated communication channel; a private key/public key pair is generated at the client station; a signature certificate request generated by means of at least the public key is transmitted from the client station to the server via the authenticated channel; a signature certificate obtained in response to the request is returned via the authenticated channel; this certificate is verified at the client station; an electronic signature is calculated at the client station by means of the private key, after which this private key is destroyed; and the calculated signature is formatted with the aid of the signature certificate received via the authenticated channel.